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REMARKS

Examiner Interview Request

Applicants' Attorney regrets that the Interview scheduled for June 8, 2006 was postponed by the Patent Office. However, Applicants' Attorney thanks the Examiner for the telephone Interview now rescheduled for 2 PM EDT on Wenesday, June 14, 2006.

The Rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

In the Rejection, the Examiner applied references and argued with respect to method claims 8-15. Examiner noted that since system claims 1-7 and computer program product claims 16-22 were respectively of the same scope, the rejection would apply equally. Accordingly, Applicants will argue with respect to claims 8-15.

Claims 8, 9, and 13-15 are unobvious and thus patentable over the combination of Abrahams (US6,618,714) in view of Vrhel et al. (US6,598,223).

The basic Abrahams patent and the present invention have the same general objective: to select and combine the best components in an optimum configuration for an overall product. Applicants claimed implementation is directed toward a computer system product while that of Abraham is directed toward a consumer electronic product such as a television set or a DVD player. However, the similarities between the present invention and Abrahams end here.

In the present invention, the potential purchaser selects a plurality of attributes and attribute values for each of the individual components which will make up his desired computer system. The Web is searched for sources of the components which most satisfy the respective attribute

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values.

The potential purchaser is also prompted to select a set of attributes required for the overall computer system, and the attribute values for the system found most satisfying components are then reconciled with these selected attributes for the overall computer system to provide an optimized computer system which is offered to the purchaser.

The Abrahams patent describes an implementation which is very different from that of Applicants. The user goes directly to a selected component vendor site on the Web without any searching. A variety of components are offered to the user via the user display from which the user selects a group of components that will make up the product that the user is developing. Then, the vendor retrieves from the vendor's own database, the attributes of each of the user selected components. The vendor's system then reconciles the attributes for each component to determine whether these components are connectable, and then configures these selected components into an overall product.

Applicants submit that the Abrahams patent is deficient as a reference for several key elements in the claimed invention. In Abrahams, there is no searching done on the Web for components which satisfy purchaser selected attribute values. In Abrahams, the user selects a vendor on the Web, and then selects a group of components from the components offered by the selected vendor.

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In Abrahams, there is no purchaser entry of component attributes and attribute values for components to be searched for on the Web. In Abrahams, after the user selects the group of components offered by a particular vendor, the vendor searches its own database for the component attribute values which come not from the purchaser or user but from the vendor.

In Abrahams, there is no prompting of the purchaser for the selection of a set of attributes required for the overall system. If anything, the Abrahams system itself determines overall product attributes when it determines the configurability of the user selected components into the overall product.

In addition as the Examiner has indicated, Abrahams does not teach offering the optimized system for sale to a purchaser.

The Examiner looks to Vrhel to make up for the deficiency of Abrahams in offering optimized systems to purchasers. Applicants will concede that Vrhel does have such a general teaching. However, the above described three significant deficiencies of Abrahams as a reference still stand. Accordingly, it is submitted that claims 8-15, and corresponding claims 1-7, and 16-22 are unobvious, and thus patentable under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Abrahams in view of Vrhel et al.

The rejection of claim 10 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over Abrahams in view of Vrhel further in view of Miller et al., is respectfully traversed.

Claim 10 is submitted to be patentable for all of the reasons set forth above for the patentability of claim 8 from which this claim depends. In addition, claim 10 sets forth that an attribute has values limited by industry

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standards. Examiner sites Miller et al. which shows mechanical gear box conductors limited by industry standards. Applicants question the remoteness of gear box attributes to attributes of computer components. However, even conceding that attributes of computer components may be controlled by industry standards, claim 10 remains patentable for the reasons set forth above.

The rejection of claim 11 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over Abrahams in view of Vrhel further in view of Yosseloff is respectfully traversed.

Claim 11 is submitted to be patentable for all of the reasons set forth above for the patentability of claim 8 from which this claim depends. In addition, claim 11 sets forth that an attribute has values limited by law. Examiner sites Yosseloff which shows gaming machine components limited by gaming laws. Applicants question the remoteness of gaming machine attributes to attributes of computer components. However, even conceding that attributes of computer components may be controlled by law, claim 11 remains patentable for the reasons set forth above.

The rejection of claim 12 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over Abrahams in view of Vrhel further in view of Blanko is respectfully traversed.

Claim 12 is submitted to be patentable for all of the reasons set forth above for the patentability of claim 8 from which this claim depends. In addition, claim 12 sets forth that an attribute has values limited by environmental laws. Examiner sites Blanko which shows computer components limited by environmental laws. Even conceding that attributes of computer components may be controlled by environmental laws, claim 12 remains patentable for the reasons set forth above.

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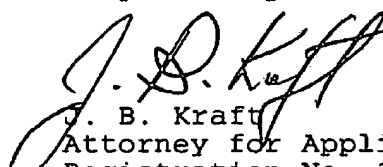
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All of the Arguments set forth above also apply to
claims 1-7 and claims 16-22.

In view of the foregoing, Claims 1-22 are submitted to
be in condition for allowance, and such allowance is
respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

 6/9/06
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